

## Message Text

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53

ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 NSC-10 NSCE-00 PM-03 L-02 IO-03

EUR-10 DPW-01 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-04 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 DODE-00 RSR-01 /075 W  
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R 251035 Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3657

INFO USDEL JEC PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 11369

LIMDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, VS

SUBJ: WEEKLY SITREP JUNE 17-23, 1973

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION IMMEDIATE SAIGON INFO USDAO SAIGON USSAG  
NAKHON PHANOM JUNE 23 REPEATED FOR YOUR INFO.

QUOTE:

CAN THO 495

LIMDIS

EO 11652 GDS

TAGS MOPS VS

SUBJECT WEEKLY SITREP JUNE 17-23, 1973

SUMMARY: DELTA COMBAT WANED DURING THE FIRST WEEK  
OF CEASEFIRE II. FIVE PROVINCES ARE RECEIVING NEW  
CHIEFS. ANOTHER PHNOM PENH RELIEF CONVOY SAFELY  
CLEARED VIETNAMESE WATERS AND RETURNED. TERRORISTS MURDERED THE  
FAMILIES OF TWO DELTA OFFICIALS. END SUMMARY.

1. SECURITY SITUATION: ( A) FIGHTING EBBED THROUGHOUT THE  
DELTA DURING THE FIRST WEEK OF CEASEFIRE II. REPORTED VC/ NVA  
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INITIATED INCIDENTS DECLINED FROM 66 ON JUNE 16, THE FIRST FULL DAY OF THE NEW TRUCE, TO 17 JUNE 22. EVERY PROVINCE REPORTED DIMINISHED MILITARY ACTIVITY. EVEN BELEAGUED CHUONG THIEN, ALTHOUGH REMAINING THE PRINCIPAL SEAT OF WAR IN THE DELTA, SAW REDUCED FIGHTING. THE GUNS ARE NOW YET SILENT. MORTARINGS AND HARASSMENTS CONTINUE AT A REDUCED LEVEL. BOOBY TRAPS AND TERRORIST ATTACKS TAKE THEIR TOLL. THE HEAVY CONCENTRATIONS OF TROOPS OF BOTH SIDES IN CHUONG THIEN AND CENTRAL DINH TUONG MAKE HOSTILE CONTACT ALMOST INEVITABLE. SAIGON'S DECISION NOT TO PERMIT LOCAL COMMANDERS TO TALK TO THEIR VC/NVA COUNTERPARTS AND ARRANGE LOCAL TRUCES HAS ALMOST CERTAINLY LED TO MISUNDERSTANDINGS AND CASUALTIES. AT THE SAME TIME, THE DELTA IS THE QUIETEST IT HAS BEEN IN MONTHS. IT IS TOO EARLY TO TELL WHETHER CEASEFIRE II IS TRULY TAKING HOLD OR BOTH SIDES ARE MERELY CATCHING THEIR BREATH FOR ANOTHER ROUND OF HARD FIGHTING.

(B) TWO BRUTAL ACTS OF TERRORISM IN THE DELTA PUNCTURATED CEASEFIRE II LAST WEEK. THE WIFE OF VINH BINH PROVINCE CHIEF COL NGUYEN HUU KIEM, THE CHAU THANH DISTRICT CHIEF'S WIFE, AND FOUR CHILDREN WERE KILLED WHEN A COMMAND- DETONATED MINE DESTROYED THEIR JEEP IN VINH BINH JUNE 20. IN THE EARLY MORNING HOURS OF JUNE 18, UNKNOWN ASSASSINS ENTERED THE HOUSE OF A PHONG DINH DEPUTY HAMLET CHIEF AND SLAUGHTERED HIM AND SEVEN MEMBERS OF HIS FAMILY WITH AK- 47 FIRE. ICCS TEAMS INVESTIGATED BOTH INCIDENTS BUT HAVE NOT YET FILED REPORTS.

(C) ANOTHER PHNOM- PENH BOUND CONVOY OF TEN SHIPS AND TWO BARGES SAFELY CROSSED INTO CAMBODIA AT 1040 HOURS JUNE 18. THE CONVOY DISCHARGED ITS CARGO AND RETURNED TO VIETNAM JUNE 20. ALTHOUGH THE SHIPS RECEIVED FIRE IN CAMBODIA, THERE WERE NO INCIDENTS ON THE VIETNAMESE SIDE OF THE BORDER.

2. GVN ACTIVITIES: FIVE DELTA PROVINCES ARE RECEIVING NEW CHIEFS. CHUONG THIEN PROVINCE CHIEF LTC TRAN TIEN KHANG IS GIVING WAY TO COL HUYNH BA CAN, THE CAPABLE COMMANDER OF THE 9 TH ARVN DIVISION'S 15 TH REGIMENT. KHANG, INEFFECTIVE AT FIRST, HAD LATELY EMERGED A STRONGER MAN. HIS INABILITY OR UNWILLINGNESS, HOWEVER, TO PAY \$ VN 20 MILLION BRIBE TO SAIGON AUTHORITIES MAY HAVE ASSURED HIS OUSTER. VIETNAMESE AUTHORITIES SAY KHANG ALSO HAD TROUBLE WITH THE 21 ST DIVISION. OTHER PROVINCE CHIEFS SLATED FOR REMOVAL ARE VINH LONG'S COL TRAN VAN THI, VINH BINH'S

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COL NGUYEN DANG PHUOC. THE FIRST THREE HAVE BEEN, RESPECTIVELY, HEAVYHANDED, CORRUPT, AND WEAK, PHUOC PUT IN EIGHT YEAR'S CREDITABLE SERVICE IN CHAU DOC, THE LAST THREE AS PROVINCE CHIEF, AND IS OVERDUE FOR A MOVE. WISNER

UNQUOTE.

WHITEHOUSE

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NNNNMAFVVZCZ

\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* LIMDIS

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* CONFIDENTIAL

## Message Attributes

**Automatic DecapTIONing:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:**  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 25 JUN 1973  
**DecapTION Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**DecapTION Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** elyme  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
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